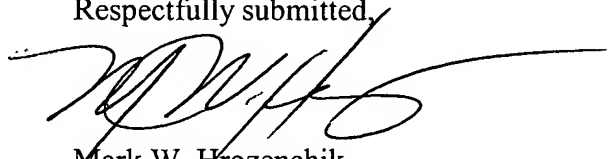


Appl. No. 10/678,069
Prel. Amdt. Dated: January 8, 2004

REMARKS

By this Preliminary Amendment, a minor error has been corrected in the specification. No new matter has been added. Should the Examiner have any questions, kindly contact the undersigned at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: JANUARY 8, 2004